

ARTERIAL WALL, THE—Edited by Albert I. Lansing, A.B., Ph.D., Chairman, Department of Anatomy, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sponsored by The Gerontological Society, Inc. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1959. 259 pages, \$7.50.

This monograph on the arterial wall is a superb contribution to the literature. It reviews currently available data on the structure, function and chemistry of the major components of the arterial wall as a background for those interested in atherosclerosis. It is a highly technical discussion which brings up to date a host of diverse studies dealing with such varying subjects as collagen and ground substance, elastic tissue, mucopolysaccharides as well as the metabolism of the arterial wall. Other chapters concern the study of arterial muscle, vascular endothelium, vaso vasorum and lipid metabolism of connective tissue. The nine chapters are all written by masters in the field and conclude with an up-to-date, pertinent bibliography.

In the opinion of the reviewer, this book is a landmark bringing together for the first time information from various disciplines with reference to the arterial wall. The varied discussions indicate that the arterial wall is highly complex, and as Dr. Dury states in his summation, each chapter in this volume presents a challenge and a promise of great reward to the more adventuresome investigators among biologists of all disciplines. The book clearly indicates that we have progressed beyond the stage of descriptive anatomy and into the visualization of the arterial wall as a biochemical and metabolic factory.

The book can be highly recommended to all investigators interested in fundamental studies on tissues. It has no direct clinical applications, but will be intensely interesting to the physician who wishes to have a fundamental grounding in the current basic approaches to understanding the arterial wall.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.

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RELAXATION AND EXERCISE FOR NATURAL CHILDBIRTH—Second Edition—Helen Heardman, Diploma Bedford Physical Training College, Chartered Physiotherapist (Teachers' Certificate). Revised and Re-edited by the Obstetric Physiotherapists' Association of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. E. & S. Livingstone, Ltd., Edinburgh and London, 1959. Distributed in the United States by the Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Maryland. 31 pages, 75 cents. (Quantity discounts available on request.)

This is the second edition of this pamphlet written by Mrs. Heardman, a devoted disciple of the late Grantley Dick Read. The frontispiece asserts that the second edition is "Revised and Re-edited by the Obstetric Physiotherapists Association of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy." After careful comparison of the first edition published in 1950 and the present one published in 1959 this reviewer is unable to discover any revision in this entire edition other than the addition of two and the deletion of one short insignificant sentence. Thus the motivation and justification for this second edition is perplexing. Admittedly there are some minor changes of a subtle nature:

(a) The pamphlet is now a meconium brown instead of blue.

(b) The publishers have extensively revised their ample advertisements which adorn the front and back pages of the pamphlet; no less than 17 books, plus their most favorable reviews, are promulgated for parental investment.

It is unfortunate that the same errors and poor writing which characterized the first edition appear unchanged nine years later. For example, Figure 3 on page 8 describing the normal position of the vertex in the pelvic inlet when labor

begins, depicts an ROA position—quite an unlikely situation in the inlet—unless the pelvis is massive or the fetus minute.

Figure 1 on page 7 is an atrocious one-dimensional diagram of the pelvis evidently designed to confound and confuse.

Gobbledy-gook writing abounds: On page 19—"Therefore every time you empty your bowels, draw a breath as described, then hold it and finally bear down and use the expulsive act. You will find it easier with a stool of about a foot high . . ." The ambiguous use of the word stool stimulates the imagination to wonder why it is easier to expel an item of such dimensions.

On page 30 the expectant mother is introduced to the vicissitudes of the second stage of labor as follows: "Each time a uterine contraction occurs the effort to bear down is resumed and the mother realizes she is growing heated and perspiring exactly as if she were playing a strenuous game. She knows that soon a very obvious stretching feeling will be experienced which sometimes even amounts to a feeling of splitting open. This must not arouse alarm, as it is not painful when the muscles are prepared. It should be appreciated. . . ."

One wonders whether Mrs. Heardman really expects such a paragraph to instill a feeling of equanimity in the mind of the prospective mother. Another assertion that "she will seldom need or desire an anesthetic or analgesic" is certain to provoke unrest among obstetricians, not to mention our anesthesiologist confreres.

Page 24 has a most unusual explanation for the pain of a labor contraction: "Fear tightens the neck of the uterus and its lower part, so that the contractions push the baby against a resistance and that hurts."

Such unscientific and unsound statements are frequent and cause this reviewer to state that he is unable to recommend this pamphlet for the use of obstetricians or their patients.

JOHN V. KELLY, M.D.

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ROENTGENOLOGIC DIAGNOSIS IN OPHTHALMOLOGY—Edward Hartmann, M.D., Chief of the Ophthalmic Department, Lariboisière Hospital and American Hospital in Paris, and Evelyn Gilles, M.D., Chief of the Roentgenology Department, Quinze-Vingt Ophthalmic Hospital; Associate in Roentgenology, Saint Antoine Hospital and American Hospital in Paris. Translated by George Z. Carter, M.D., Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Edited by Conrad Berens, M.D., F.A.C.S., Lecturer on Ophthalmology, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School; Advisory Attending Surgeon, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary; Consultant Emeritus, American Board of Ophthalmology. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania, 1959. 375 pages, \$15.00.

The first ten chapters of this monograph are concerned with the roentgen examination of the orbit and adjacent structures; the last five deal with examination of the sinuses, teeth, temporal bone, sella and cranial vault. Special procedures such as arteriography, ventriculography and encephalography are considered, and there is a section on lesions of the cervical spine.

The work is an evolution of a smaller monograph originally prepared by an ophthalmologist (Hartmann) but then rewritten in conjunction with a radiologist (Gilles). Since both men are French and practice in Paris, there is an understandable tendency to use European names for common roentgenological positions and to have a preponderance of the references to the European literature, chiefly Gallic. Nevertheless, the illustrations are of good quality (although in the negative), are accompanied by line drawings in many instances and neatly complement the text. The work should be of value to radiologists and eye specialists.

L. HENRY GARLAND, M.B.